

1260574 - R8 SDMS

Volume 137, Issue 18 October 27, 2011

Silverton STANDARD & the MINER

Weekly Miner
established 1875

SILVERTON'S PIONEER NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

Silverton Standard
established 1889

IN BRIEF

Sen. Bennet staffers to visit Silverton today

Staff for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, D-Colo., want to hear from constituents in San Juan County and help those needing assistance with a federal agency.

Bennet's Southwestern Colorado Regional Director John Whitney and Constituent Advocate Terra Anderson will be in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room of the San Juan County Courthouse from 3 to 5 p.m. today, Thursday, Oct. 27, and available to meet one-on-one with members of the public who would like to communicate information to Bennet or who are experiencing difficulty with a federal agency.

Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, please contact Anderson by phone at (970) 259-1710 or by e-mail at terra_anderson@bennet.senate.gov.

On hand will be John Whitney, regional director for Sen. Bennet, and Terra Anderson, constituent Advocate for Bennet.

All aboard for Local Appreciation Train on Sunday, Oct. 30

The last regularly scheduled passenger train to Silverton is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 30, but the annual special Silverton Local Appreciation Train will run on Sunday, Oct. 30.

The train will depart Silverton at 8:30 a.m. and arrive at Durango for a 2-hour layover. It will depart Durango for Silverton at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets, at only \$20 each, are available for Silverton residents and for residents of Ouray, Telluride and Ridgway residents will be available.

Tickets must be paid for at the time of booking and proof of residency is required. Tickets are nonrefundable.

Tickets are available at the Silverton and Durango depots. Or call 387-5416 or 247-2733.

River Protection group meets today

The River Protection Workgroup for the Animas River is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, Oct. 27, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Silverton Town Hall.

Everyone is invited to participate. The agenda for the meeting is to review a values statement and learn about water issues from Bruce Whitehead, executive director of the Southwestern Water Conservation District. The agenda is below. No final recommendations are being made

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Town OKs fire authority

By Mark Esper

The formation of a formal Silverton-San Juan Fire and Rescue Authority received unanimous approval from the Silverton Town Council on Monday, Oct. 24.

The formation of the authority comes after a year of discussions on the structure of the

"We've been concerned with the fact that the fire department didn't adhere to any recognizable structure."

Town Administrator Jason Wells

volunteer fire department, which is jointly funded by the Town of Silverton and San Juan County.

"We've been concerned with

the fact that the fire department didn't adhere to any recognizable structure," said Town Administrator Jason Wells. Both the town attorney and county

attorney, for instance, have refused to represent the department in the event of any litigation. And the town's insurer has also declined to offer coverage for the department under its current structure or lack thereof.

Wells said the town at first considered making the department a formal municipal fire

See FIRE, Page 10

A TASTE OF WINTER



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner

Warren Wieboldt of Silverton walks up Blair Street on Wednesday morning, Oct. 26, amid heavy snowfall.

ELECTION
Nov. 1, 2011

Council endorses county millage

Property tax would be dedicated to emergency equipment needs

The Silverton Town Council has unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the proposed county millage increase to fund the purchase of emergency response equipment.

Town officials noted that both the town and county face budget challenges that will make it difficult for those entities to continue contributing to an

escrow fund for purchases of emergency equipment for the sheriff's office, fire department and Silverton Ambulance Association.

The measure on the Nov. 1 ballot asks voters to approve a 1 mill levy on all property in San Juan County.

County Assessor Dan Salazar said the millage would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home \$15.92 per year.

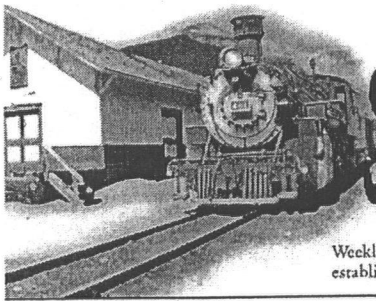
And county officials noted that with lower assessed values, property owners would still likely be paying less in taxes than they had last year.

"The passage of the county's

See ELECTION, Page 10

Voting procedure for Nov. 1 election

Polls will be open in the San Juan County Courthouse from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 1. Early voting continues at the San Juan County Clerk's Office through Friday, Oct. 28, from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



1260574 - R8 SDMS

Volume 137, issue 18 October 27, 2011

Silverton STANDARD & the MINER

Weekly Miner
established 1875

SILVERTON'S PIONEER NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

Silverton Standard
established 1889

IN BRIEF

Sen. Bennet staffers to visit Silverton today

Staff for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, D-Colo., want to hear from constituents in San Juan County and help those needing assistance with a federal agency.

Bennet's Southwestern Colorado Regional Director John Whitney and Constituent Advocate Terra Anderson will be in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room of the San Juan County Courthouse from 3 to 5 p.m. today, Thursday, Oct. 27, and available to meet one-on-one with members of the public who would like to communicate information to Bennet or who are experiencing difficulty with a federal agency.

Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, please contact Anderson by phone at (970) 259-1710 or by e-mail at terra_anderson@bennet.senate.gov.

On hand will be John Whitney, regional director for Sen. Bennet, and Terra Anderson, constituent Advocate for Bennet.

All aboard for Local Appreciation Train on Sunday, Oct. 30

The last regularly scheduled passenger train to Silverton is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 30, but the annual special Silverton Local Appreciation Train will run on Sunday, Oct. 30.

The train will depart Silverton at 8:30 a.m. and arrive at Durango for a 2-hour layover. It will depart Durango for Silverton at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets, at only \$20 each, are available for Silverton residents and for residents of Ouray, Telluride and Ridgway residents will be available.

Tickets must be paid for at the time of booking and proof of residency is required. Tickets are nonrefundable.

Tickets are available at the Silverton and Durango depots. Or call 387-5416 or 247-2733.

River Protection group meets today

The River Protection Workgroup for the Animas River is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, Oct. 27, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Silverton Town Hall.

Everyone is invited to participate. The agenda for the meeting is to review a values statement and learn about water issues from Bruce Whitehead, executive director of the Southwestern Water Conservation District. The agenda is below. No final recommendations are being made

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Town OKs fire authority

By Mark Esper

The formation of a formal Silverton-San Juan Fire and Rescue Authority received unanimous approval from the Silverton Town Council on Monday, Oct. 24.

The formation of the authority comes after a year of discussions on the structure of the

"We've been concerned with the fact that the fire department didn't adhere to any recognizable structure."

Town Administrator Jason Wells

volunteer fire department, which is jointly funded by the Town of Silverton and San Juan County.

"We've been concerned with

the fact that the fire department didn't adhere to any recognizable structure," said Town Administrator Jason Wells. Both the town attorney and county

attorney, for instance, have refused to represent the department in the event of any litigation. And the town's insurer has also declined to offer coverage for the department under its current structure or lack thereof.

Wells said the town at first considered making the department a formal municipal fire

See FIRE, Page 10

A TASTE OF WINTER



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner

Warren Wieboldt of Silverton walks up Blair Street on Wednesday morning, Oct. 26, amid heavy snowfall.

ELECTION
Nov. 1, 2011

Council endorses county millage

Property tax would be dedicated to emergency equipment needs

The Silverton Town Council has unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the proposed county millage increase to fund the purchase of emergency response equipment.

Town officials noted that both the town and county face budget challenges that will make it difficult if not impossible for those entities to continue contributing to an

escrow fund for purchases of emergency equipment for the sheriff's office, fire department and Silverton Ambulance Association.

The measure on the Nov. 1 ballot asks voters to approve a 1 mill levy on all property in San Juan County.

County Assessor Dan Salazar said the millage would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home \$15.92 per year.

And county officials noted that with lower assessed values, property owners would still likely be paying less in taxes than they had last year.

"The passage of the county's

See ELECTION, Page 10

Voting procedure for Nov. 1 election

Polls will be open in the San Juan County Courthouse from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Early voting continues at the San Juan County Clerk's Office through Friday, Oct. 28, from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Official newspaper of the Town of Silverton and San Juan County. The *Silvertown Standard & the Miner* is published every Thursday by the San Juan County Historical Society. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 8, Silverton, CO 81433

Periodicals postage paid at Silverton, Colo.
USPS #496-880

Postmaster, send address changes to: P.O. Box 8, Silverton, CO 81433

Contacting us

In Person: 1315 Snowden St., Suite 308 (Upstairs at the historic Miner's Union Hospital building)
Telephone:

Editor: (970) 387-5477
Advertising: (970) 387-5477

Mail:
Silverton Standard
P.O. Box 8
Silverton, CO 81433

E-mail:
Editor: editor@silvertownstandard.com
Advertising: silvertownads@gmail.com
Subscriptions: subscriptions@silvertownstandard.com

Staff

Mark Esper: Editor
Katey Fetchenhier: Advertising
Melanie Bergold: Subscriptions

Subscriptions are \$24 per year for Silverton residents; \$48 per year for all other deliveries by U.S. mail. Digital e-mail delivery is available at \$26 per year.

Our goals

The *Silvertown Standard & the Miner* is a weekly newspaper written for people interested in the issues and news of Silverton, Colo., and the surrounding San Juan Mountains region. The *Standard* voices a strong sense of community for Silverton and the San Juans as it brings you the issues, characters, landscapes, and the talent of the region. Stressing in-depth, balanced, and thoughtful writing, news, photography, and topical articles on key issues affecting the region, the *Standard* keeps the greater San Juan community informed, entertained, provoked, and engaged in dialogue about the community and its future.

coloradopress
ASSOCIATION

2011 Member

Colorado Press Association winner:

□ Best news content for a small weekly, 2007;

□ Best photos and design, 2008.

2010 CPA awards:

- Best Business Story
- Best Education Story
- Best Headline Writing
- Best News Page Design
- Best Editorial Layout & Design
- Best Photo Essay
- Best Special Section
- Best Newspaper Promotion

Another use for newspapers

As the Animas River Stakeholders Group struggles to find a solution to the complex problem of acid mine drainage contaminating Cement Creek I just wanted to point out that newspapers have many uses.

They are very absorbent, for one.

I would suggest a pilot project of plugging leaking mines with thousands of newspapers or perhaps installing a mesh across the creek itself and dumping 20,000 or so newspapers into the mesh each week to filter out contaminants. At 50 cents per copy this

EDITOR'S OPINION

may only amount to a price of \$10,000 per week, and I would be glad to install the newspapers.

The soggy papers can then be retrieved by someone else, dried out and recycled at the transfer station. Just wanted to toss that out there as a possible cost-effective solution.

The *Silvertown Standard & the Miner* was notified last week that it has been designated as a National Historic Site in Journalism by the Society of

Professional Journalists. This is great news for a lot of reasons. The biggest advantage is (while I have yet to consult a lawyer on this) we may now be covered under the Antiquities Act which provides for federal protection of historic artifacts.

Don't worry, you won't be arrested for buying a copy of the newspaper on the black market, but if you DON'T buy a paper, you may be responsible for the potential destruction of a national treasure. Don't risk it!

See EDITOR, Page 10



Weather good for sled dogs

By Freddie Canfield

WEATHER AND OBSERVATIONS

This weather week remained placidly predictable with a succession of six "Perfect Days"!

Then, overnight, something began to change. Tuesday morning at 1 a.m. stars were not visible as they had been at that hour all week until then. Also, the temperature was not in the low 20s or upper teens.

Instead it was 45 degrees. By 2 a.m. it was 47. It was 37 at 7 a.m. with the first raindrops gently falling around 6 a.m. Light rain continued off and on all day. Snow reached down into the 10,000-foot level. As I write, in the hour of 9 a.m., the rain continued lightly with an official temperature of 34.8 steady.

We will see what tomorrow brings. Snow, if it is up to may pack of sled dogs.

Oh, by the way, I am a doggy daddy. It's a girl! Her name is Ninja. Named after a turtle. Which she isn't. Ninja has a great work ethic. She is 10 years young. Like my other two, she has been touring mushing for Chantell and Mark Wood over on Horse Fly Mesa in San Miguel County in the winter. In the summer Ninja has been working tour mushing upon the glacier in various parts of

Date	High	Low	Precip., conditions
Oct. 19	65	18	Clear
Oct. 20	60	19	Clear
Oct. 21	60	19	Clear
Oct. 22	58	21	Clear
Oct. 23	66	18	Clear
Oct. 24	61	18	.03", overcast
Oct. 25	46	32	.05", overcast

Alaska.

Her first night in town involved a lot of howling, rending of dog blattes and all of that. My apologies to my neighbors.

She got all of that out of her system and we are all pack bonding since then. One never knows! Daylight is less than seven hours at our place. Life grows gradually quieter and more peaceful. Winter grows ever closer.

At 4:30 a.m. it was 38 Wednesday morning. In the hour of 6 the temperature hovered around freezing. Finally, snow accumulated — not much this time, however.

Sled dogs are enjoying it. How about you?

'Superfund' would hurt town

By Ted Toms

GUEST OPINION

There has been a lot of attention directed toward the possibility of a "Superfund" designation for the Cement Creek area in San Juan County lately, and rightly so: I vehemently oppose this idea for several reasons.

Since the demise of mining in this area, we have been relegated to depending almost solely on tourism for survival. Fortunately, we have something to offer tourists who come here during

vacation time, fall colors, hunting season, etc. to spend their hard earned cash on. However, anytime an area is designated a "Superfund" site, an immediate impression is conjured up and it is not a desirable one.

"Superfund" means a dirty,

See TOMS, Page 9

FROM THE STANDARD MAIL CAR



Superfund would be the wrong approach

Editor:

Designating the Upper Cement Creek area a Superfund site would be the wrong approach to efficiently and effectively improve the water quality of the Animas River.

A superfund designation would impose upon the area a costly and inflexible government process. It would discourage cooperative, locally driven solutions to a matter of local concern. Placing the Superfund tag on our area would, no doubt, trigger lawsuits among EPA and those who might otherwise be available to fund reasonable cleanup efforts. In this scenario, only the lawyers get paid.

I have worked for Sunnyside Gold/Kinross as they have continually moved forward in their efforts to reclaim and revegetate the areas they are responsible for. I have found them to be honest and sincere in their efforts. I have fertilized, planted and replanted areas that struggle to vegetate due to high altitude and rocky ground. I have never been told just to let it be. The company has always come back to me with another "Let's try this." I do not believe this is a company trying to walk away from their environmental responsibility.

Working together to clean up the Animas River is the best path forward and I strongly discourage the EPA from triggering the legal gridlock that will inevitably follow a Superfund designation.

— Pete Maisel, Silverton

Few benefit from sheep grazing, but we're stuck with lots of negatives

Editor:

We spent more than three weeks in your lovely town this past summer. The columbines, most notably in Cunningham Gulch, were more numerous than we had ever seen them before, and we have been coming to Silverton for many, many years.

We returned to Cunningham periodically during our stay, and noticed one day that the huge and numerous clusters of columbines had been reduced to a few blossom stalks per plant.

It did not take the observational powers of Sherlock Holmes to deduce that the sheep had been through; they had left their dung and prints. Presumably, their passage explained the sudden loss of columbine blossoms. Closer examination showed a

See LETTERS, Page 9

Write to us

The *Silvertown Standard & the Miner* welcomes letters to the editor. Send letters via e-mail to editor@silvertownstandard.com, or via snail mail to, Editor, *Silvertown Standard & the Miner*, P.O. Box 8, Silverton, CO 81433.

Halloween in Silverton was once a magical time

By David Swanson

GUEST OPINION

Never let it be said that Halloween in a small town like Silverton isn't full of a disproportionate share of excitement. Growing up in the 1970s, the prospect of coming into a cache of candy for a single night's worth of begging filled myself and every other pre-adolescent I knew with a huge sense of anticipation. Just like Christmas, checking the calendar every day for a month leading up to the event became a ritualistic thing. Why didn't time move faster, and what sort of sadistic entity was forcing the clock handles to actually move backwards whenever you watched them on the wall?

Now going through one's formative years in a town where everyone knew everyone else increased the expectation level to an even higher degree. You couldn't wait to find out what type of treats the lady across the alley was giving out this year. The fact that she handed you, your sisters, and the girls next door special cookies unlike the regular candy she gave the other trick-or-treaters made it that much more unbelievable. Then there was the school-teacher up the street who made you perform a song before she deposited a treat in your bag.

Everyone else whose door you'd knock on seemed almost as thrilled to see your efforts at designing a costume that would fit over a snowsuit as you did upon showing it to them. Masks were often homemade, and some hosts even gave you money when they ran out of candy. Halloween was a glorious event, and life couldn't get much more perfect for a kid on the night of October 31st. Why wasn't the thrill like this every day?

As you got older, the month leading up to Halloween meant

you suddenly developed a perverse desire to watch horror movies without closing your eyes during the scary parts. Silverton's one and only movie theatre, The Lode, provided a ready-made source for appeasing this "Jones". Running home after the movie became a precipitous walk through the gauntlet of fear.

Dracula, the Wolf man, and various other minions of the night lurked around every corner, streetlights seemed that much more ineffective, and you dreaded having to ask adults to give you a ride home. Exclusively because of the fact that they had mysteriously turned into zombies while you were shuddering in terror during the movie.

Halloween in Silverton also had its fair share of real life trepidation too. While Trick-or-Treating, you often chose your steps carefully due to the fact that roving bands of high school hooligans were on the prowl. Abducting you and your buddies for nefarious purposes such as stealing some of your candy, or making you pull down your pants and climb up a telephone pole. Then there was that kid you heard about who ended up getting driven up to the cemetery and tied to a tombstone. Adult authority types didn't discover his body till just before Christmas after a particularly nasty snowstorm. Bert Garcia said it true, and he never embellishes these sorts of tales when talking about the subject, right?

Thirteen is the threshold age for various things. Halloween when you'd achieved this momentous milestone in your life meant you could now join in on the infamous Silverton tradition that is "Mischief

Night". You were now welcomed into the that self-same band of roving hooligans, and the group you hung out with on the night of October 30th did more than just hang toilet paper from the tree in front of someone's house.

Playground equipment from the school was overturned and hauled to the middle of Main Street and deposited. Cars were also flipped over and dragged to the school. Specifically for achieving the abject purpose of delaying the start of classes the next morning. Sometimes this strategy actually worked too.

Nothing too extreme was ever achieved, and wandering the streets trying to look tough seemed to be the main purpose. The simple act of scattering like rats when the cop car started flashing its lights turned out to be more important, and therefore more fun than committing the actual misdemeanors. The sheriff knew you and your folks; so getting caught meant certain death by grounding when you got home that night.

Since those days of my youth, Halloween has turned into more of a sedate holiday. I still love to watch horror movies during the month of October, but look forward to seeing what "The Simpson's Treehouse of Horror" cartoon will be more than anything else from year to year.

As testament to the fact that it's turned into an Adult holiday, seeing the various costumes on display becomes a thrill. Giving out Trick-or-Treat candy is such a charge in and of itself as well. Best of all, it's become a fantastic way to begin the holiday season. Nothing like getting things off to a rousing start by scaring yourself into a slobbering mess.

David Swanson is a resident of Silverton.

TOMS, from Page 1

unsafe and unhealthy area, at least in my mind. It is almost certain that this designation for our home would virtually destroy our very survival as a community because our main source of existence would be destroyed by this label. Tourists do not want to visit an area that has a false image of being, dirty, unsafe and undesirable.

The designation would remove our ability as a community to control the situation in a manner that would be most advantageous to us. Outsiders (EPA) coming in and deciding what is best for us is not in our best interests.

The EPA's name tells me that their one and only focus is protecting the environment. That is a good thing on its face. However, the human factor must be considered and EPA will not consider what is in the best interests of Silverton/San Juan County simply because they do not know what is in our best interest.

Having said that, I believe every available option should be considered when deciding whether or not to tag us with the "Superfund" designation. There is a workable, viable option out there right now. Sunnyside Gold and the Animas River Stakeholders Group have put forward a viable option that would address the problem and accomplish the desired results and there are numerous advantages to Sunnyside's approach.

1. The vast knowledge that Sunnyside and ARSG have of this area, its topography, geology, other particulars that would be important considerations when determining the approach to cleaning up Cement Creek.
2. Sunnyside has vast experience in reclamation of mining sites. This knowledge and experience would be invaluable in achieving the desired results and should not be underestimated.
3. Sunnyside's Reclamation Manager is a man many of us know. Larry Perino has many years of overseeing reclamation

projects, with great success. Also, being a resident here, he is uniquely qualified to be able to accomplish the task and at the same time, be able to maintain an interest in the community that is and always has been his home. Larry's knowledge and experience would also be invaluable to this project and should not be ignored.

4. Silverton/San Juan County has a number of individuals who worked their whole lives in the mining industry and have assisted in reclamation projects throughout San Juan County. In addition, employing some of these experienced people would be a boost to the local economy. We all know that in a community this small, an operation that provides even five jobs would help our community tremendously.

It is a given that everyone desires clean water and every effort should be taken to ensure that we protect our environment, within reason. However, as stated above, the human factor must be considered when contemplating designating a community a "Superfund" site. It is absolutely imperative that every option be considered before taking such drastic action. I sincerely believe we can clean up the Cement Creek area and at the same time, protect our homes and our livelihood.

I have personally forwarded letters to individuals at the EPA who will have a part in determining our future and will gladly furnish the names and addresses to anyone with a desire to contact them with your own thoughts.

A concerted effort to let the EPA know that we do not want to be saddled with the "Superfund" label might help them consider any and all other options in cleaning up Cement Creek, especially including the Sunnyside and ARSG plan. I truly believe that label would destroy our little part of heaven on Earth.

Ted Toms is a resident of Silverton.

LETTERS, from Page 2

noticeable reduction in other flora, as well. This year the sheep were late in arriving; maybe every year could be this good, and we have simply never seen July wildflowers before the hungry hordes arrive. We didn't know what we were missing until now.

The impact of sheep on your tundra is a serious issue that should be addressed. Sheep leave numerous paths through the sensitive tundra; they decimate the wildflowers; they leave a dreadful odor and are accompanied by large numbers of flies, and probably various parasites as well.

I suspect that the impact of sheep grazing on your tourism industry is not quantifiable, but the damage that they do to the environment certainly is. While some tourists undoubtedly like the sheep, others do not. I doubt if anyone comes to Silverton to view domestic sheep; some people may take their vacations where they do not have to bother with sheep and the threat from the sheep

guard dogs. While I favor non-lethal predator control, the sheep guard dogs are becoming a definite threat to those of us who hike with our dogs.

Does Silverton benefit from the sheep in any way? You do not receive any money directly from the lease fees. The sheep herders and truck drivers who bring in the sheep are not likely to spend much money in your town. It seems to me that you suffer from the environmental consequences of the sheep, and see no benefit.

How many people make a living from grazing sheep in your County? Is it even profitable for them? It is my understanding that the sheep grazing enterprise in San Juan County is marginal at best, and may be a money losing enterprise.

If the sheep only benefit a few people, and are a detriment to many, then the grazing leases should be retired.

I think that local pressure brought to bear on the BLM is probably the most effective way of getting this issue into the open for discussion and solu-

tion.

You, and we who do not live in Silverton but who also love your mountains, should not have to suffer the consequences of sheep grazing for the dubious benefit of a few people.

— Laurie McGavran, Los Alamos, N.M.

Train riders' comments provide insight into what we can do better

Editor;

The comments in the Oct. 20 *Silverton Standard* (page 6) from train riders gave a very interesting picture of Silverton. From "The town of Silverton is so quaint. I only wish we had more time to explore it" to "Silverton was a disappointment."

I think that the people of Silverton should embrace tourism! Today tourism IS the main industry in town. People should accept that fact, move on and make Silverton a fun and exciting place to visit.

Other comments were:

"With its vacant lots, abun-

dant dandelions and weeds, and some shops in horrible disrepair, it almost seems that Silverton doesn't even care about itself." Ouch! The citizens might consider a "Beautify Silverton Campaign" and mow some of those vacant lots and along the sidewalks.

"... they (Silverton) could have marketed their unique charm better without turning it into a tourist trap (which is kind of what it felt like)." and "Lack of things to do in Silverton."

During train season we could have: daily re-enactments of mining camp days and mining skills on a vacant lot; daily gun-fights; a daily 30-minute indoor presentation of "Silverton's Story"; period characters sitting/standing on street corners to talk to people; music everywhere; costumed "Ladies" posing for pictures on Blair Street; a "Vendors Alley" with local arts, crafts and jewelry; or visiting Native Art exhibits.

"Lack of information on what is available to do for the two hours spent in Silverton."

During train season we could have a kiosk at the train-stop with costumed people to answer questions and give out printed materials such as "What to Do in Silverton This Week."

It will take a tremendous effort by the whole town to address these issues, but I know that the creative people of Silverton are up to the task.

— Paula Higgins, Silverton

KSJC says thanks

KSJC, Silverton Community Radio, and its thrift store thank the community for all donations. On Saturday, Oct. 29, the thrift store will be open from noon to 2:30 p.m. with Halloween accessories on sale.

To schedule a donation drop off call 903-4132.

We are experience some technical difficulties in regards to broadcasting Town Council meetings. To get involved with KSJC or to help with expertise and money, please call 903-4132.

Thanks,

— KSJC Board, Silverton Community Radio, 92.5 FM

Municipal Code Revision Workshop

Wednesday, November 2, 2011
Town of Silverton
Town Hall
5:30 - 7:30pm

The Town of Silverton is soliciting public input on the bottom-up revision of the municipal code. This is your opportunity to improve your local government and contribute to the creation of a more modernized and citizen-friendly code. Town staff will host the workshop and public comments will be heard, recorded and considered. All are welcome.

The upcoming workshop will address Chapter 10 (partial): General Offenses

- General Provisions
- Government and Public Officers
- Streets and Public Places
- Public, Private and Personal Property
- Public Peace, Order and Decency
- (or as far as we can get in two hours)

Please pick up a hard copy at Town Hall or request an electronic copy by emailing Keith Thompson at kthompson@silverton.co.us. Comments will also be accepted prior to the workshop and may be delivered to Town Hall or emailed to Keith. For more information call 970.387.5522.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BY LAW CHANGES

The Board of Directors of San Miguel Power Association Inc. will be hearing public comment on proposed Bylaw changes during the Member Comment portion of their regular meeting to be held at 10:00 AM on November 4, 2011 at the Nucila office, (170 West 10th Avenue, Nucila Colorado) and at their regular meeting to be held at 9:30 AM on December 14, 2011 at the Ridgway office, (720 North Railroad Street). The Board will be conducting a final vote on the proposed changes at their regular meeting to be held at 10:00 AM on December 14, 2011 at the Ridgway office located at 720 North Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. The proposed Bylaw amendments clarify election procedures such as (i) communication, (ii) fre-

quency of adjustments to Director Districts, (iii) nomination, (iv) campaigning, (v) ballots, (vi) voting, (vii) election supervision and counting of ballots, (viii) candidate qualifications, and (ix) date of election. The proposed Bylaw amendments also allow regular meetings of the Board of Directors to be held more than once a month, and modify the attendance requirements for Directors.

Members may request a copy of the redlined changes from the Ridgway office, 970-826-5549, or the Nucila office, 970-884-7311 and the redlined changes are posted on SMPA's website (www.smpa.com).

Published in the Silverton Standard & the Miner, Oct. 27, 2011

Hawaii Cruise and Tour

12 Days from '1499'
Departs January - June in 2012

Start your tour in sunny Honolulu and then board Norwegian Cruise Line's *Pride of America* to island-hop through paradise! Experience the breathtaking scenery of Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island. Witness Kauai's spectacular Na Pali coast with its tall cliffs, stunning waterfalls, and secluded beaches. With all meals included on board ship and four nights in exciting Honolulu, this Hawaii vacation has it all.

*Prices are \$299 per person and per line. Seater charges may apply. Airfare not included. Call 1-877-817-5430



Call for details!
1-888-817-5430

Please mention: TN112302

Low-Cost High-Speed Internet



\$39.95*
month

GUARANTEED FOR LIFE!

Call now to see if you qualify:
1-877-908-4667

www.wildblue.com/usa

*Lowest Cost Broadband Initiative package only. Not available in all areas. Product eligibility, please call above listed phone number.



Part of the U.S. Recovery Act

TIME, from Page 12

edition of the *Silverton Standard & the Miner*:

LARGE INJURY AWARD FOR MINER WHO WAS BLINDED.

The largest award ever made in Colorado to an employee injured in an industrial accident was made Wednesday when the state Industrial Commission allowed Pat Doshier, 25-year-old miner, a total of \$34,812.56 for the complete loss of his sight. Doshier was doing mine assessment work on claims owned by the Treasure Gold Mine & Power company near Silverton when both eyes were blown out by the explosion of dynamite caps July 24, 1929.

His employer, Samuel G. Martin, carried no workmen's compensation insurance, so in addition to the injury award 50 per cent penalty was added by the commission.

350 CAR LICENSES.

County Clerk Ida Grimes has issued 350 1930 passenger car licenses to owners using San Juan county roads. This is an increase of 75 as compared with licenses issued last year.

SWANSONS WELCOME

A 5-POUND BOY.

A five pound baby son was born Thursday to Mr. and Mrs. Irving Swanson at the Montrose hospital. Mr. Swanson is the butcher at the Piggly Wiggly. — *Montrose Press*, Oct. 18.

LOOKING, from Page 12

Fred Maestas, injured in a mine accident here a year ago, was readmitted to Mercy hospital Wednesday of last week for further treatment. On advice from a Durango physician, Fred was sent to Penrose Memorial Hospital, Colorado Springs, Sept. 15 for further diagnosis and treatment, according to his wife. Fred has been unable to work most of the time since his injury. He hopes the recent treatment will be beneficial. He has a wife and 5 children who live in Silverton.

EDITOR, from Page 2

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad officials were in town recently giving Silvertonians an update on how the year went and what they have in store for the future. I was disappointed that they still fail to see the wisdom of making a minor name change. The historic railroad should be called the Silverton & Durango Narrow Gauge Railroad. Our dreary suburb to the south, with its Big Box stores, should be in the caboose. After all, people don't ride the railroad to go to Durango. Their destination is the historic urban heart of the San Juans.

I wanted to thank the Silverton Threads quilting club for their \$250 donation to the *Silverton Standard*. It's been a challenging year and we sure could use the help.

Remember, donations to help this historic newspaper survive are tax deductible.

— Mark Esper

FIRE, from Page 1

department, "but that would require a lot of oversight and wouldn't give the department the kind of independence it currently enjoys."

The draft inter-governmental agreement that the Town Council signed off on Monday night now goes to the county commissioners.

Wells said he hopes to have the formal fire and rescue authority in existence by the end of the calendar year. He said four attorneys have thoroughly reviewed the agreement.

The authority's charter requires that seven board members would be elected by the volunteers, and all board members must be firefighters.

Town Trustee Pat Swonger said he would prefer to have the town and county governments represented on the board, given that those governments provide the money for the department.

"That really concerns me. I think there should be people from the governments on that board," Swonger said. "I think there has to be some line of authority back to the taxpayers."

Wells acknowledged that the proposed arrangement "isn't normal, but this is Silverton, too."

He said it "made sense to draft an agreement based on how it's been."

And Wells said he has heard no outcry for change from within the community or from the Town Council for that matter.

"The only instruction that things needed to change came from beyond this jurisdiction," Wells said, pointing to the insurance issue and legal representation.

"That was problematic for the department. Those were the real driving factors," Wells said.

"Having someone not on the fire department on the board could be a hindrance," said firefighter Rob Renowden. "We need to run the fire department like firemen are supposed to."

And he said that in any event the Town Council and San Juan County commissioners will still pretty much control the fire department's budget.

"The power of the purse strings trumps everything," Wells added.

Trustee Karla Sfranski said she very much appreciates the volunteer fire department. But she said given the town's \$35,400 a year contribution (half the fire department's budget, with the county chipping in the other half), the town should have representation on the fire and rescue authority's board.

"There is no other funding entity in town that does not have town representation on its board," Sfranski said. "It has to do with our municipal responsibility."

Nonetheless, the Town Council voted unanimously to establish the fire and rescue authority as proposed, with no town representation on its board.

ELECTION, from Page 1

proposed mill increase would have a discernable and direct positive impact on the town's strained municipal budget, given that any funds generated through such an increase would necessarily be applied to the purchase of emergency equipment, thereby offsetting the town's shared obligation to purchase such equipment," the resolution adopted by the Town Council on Monday night, Oct. 24, states.

"This would benefit our budget as much as the county's," said Town Administrator Jason Wells.

The wording on the proposed millage levy to fund fire department, ambulance service and sheriff's office equipment reads as follows:

"Shall San Juan County be

permitted to levy, collect and spend additional property taxes projected to total \$49,000 during the first full year following adoption of the measure for the sole and exclusive purpose of funding the acquisition of emergency services equipment by adding an additional one mill to the 19.641 mills currently levied on real and personal property by San Juan County, Colorado thereby bringing the total mill levy imposed on property by San Juan County to 20.641 mills?"

San Juan County voters will also elect three school board members in the election.

Running for three 4-year (unpaid) school board terms are incumbents Keri Metzler and Dan Salazar, along with Mary Krause and Katey Houston.

Gentlemen;

At last Monday night's meeting of the Town Trustees, the problem in the backcountry with the aggressive sheep dogs was mentioned. It was noted that they pose a threat in many ways to the safety of our visitors, and the local economy. The *Denver Post* has already taken note of the situation and will no doubt follow up with more articles next season. This kind of aggressive guard dog is inappropriate and dangerous in San Juan County, and we support your efforts to get a handle on the situation.

Sincerely, Terrence M. Kerwin, on behalf of the Silverton Town Board.

San Juan County Commissioners;